

# COMMON SCHOOLS.

## ADDRESS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF OHIO.

The subject of common school education has become one of the most popular themes upon which a citizen of Ohio can address his fellow citizens. Numerous petitions have been annually before the legislature, calling for improvements and extensions of the system. The want of full statistical information has been felt, and in part, remedy that defect, a superintendent of common schools has been appointed, whose duty it is, among other things, to collect through the county auditors and school officers an accurate and complete report in every school district in the state. As this report may form the basis of future legislation, its fulness and correctness are therefore of the utmost importance.

This measure of the legislature has been generally received with favor, and though parties divide the people on almost all other subjects, this, for the improvement of common schools, is adopted and approved by men of all sides; and already the friends of the schools, and of education generally, have predicted the most favorable results.

It should be distinctly understood, that but little can be done without the co-operation of the county auditors and school directors throughout the state, however zealous and industrious your superintendent may be.

Look for a moment at the work to be done.

There are in the state 72 counties, containing 1060 townships, divided into more than 8000 school districts, from each of which a report is required. The superintendent could not visit in person more than two districts a day, and make the proper examinations: If he could devote all his time to this part of his duty, he would only visit only about 600 a year, but he has other duties of his office that will occupy at least one-third, or perhaps one-half of the time. This review shows that the personal labor of the superintendent will be inadequate to all the information required.

Who then are to aid in the work?

The legislature, by the same law referred to, requires the superintendent to address circulars to the county auditors, with the proper directions, in the month of May. The county auditors are required to address circulars to the school directors of each district; and it is made the duty of the school directors to furnish the particular information in detail.

### TO THE COUNTY AUDITORS

Gentlemen—I have prepared and sent to each of you my circular, containing a copy of the law and a statement of what is required; but for fear of accident, another copy will be forwarded to each of you, and also a copy of the circular of the county auditor to the school and township officers as prepared by the auditor of this county. You can adopt this or any other form you please, so as to effect the object. You have also received blank forms to facilitate your labors, and secure, as far as possible, uniformity in your returns.

Gentlemen—The extended action under this law must begin with you. Any delay on your part will delay the whole. The school officers must receive their instructions from you, the circular already in your possession will furnish all needful directions to you. Let me entreat you to send out your circulars at least one to every school district, and to every township clerk in your respective counties immediately, as the law directs. Read it for yourselves, and let us all be governed by the requisitions of the law under which we are now called to act.

### TO THE OFFICERS OF COMMON SCHOOLS IN THE STATE OF OHIO.

Gentlemen—On you, after all, devolves the greater part of the work, and the legislature looks to you for an active and effectual endeavor to furnish all the information required.—Your returns are to be made to the county auditors, and by the county auditors forwarded to the superintendent, to be laid before the legislature.

The county auditors have copies of the law and directions, on all the points on which reports are required. You are, therefore, referred to these officers for information, should they in any case fail to comply with their duty in placing the proper documents in your hands at an early day.

You will be particularly careful that your annual report includes all the time from the third Friday in October, 1836, to the third Friday in October, 1837, being the period of the annual election of boards of school officers.

There are in the state, say seventy-two county auditors, and more than twenty thousand school officers, including school directors, examiners, clerks and treasurers, besides school teachers, any one of whom can, in one or two days collect and furnish with sufficient accuracy, all that is required for his particular district.

### TO THE CITIZENS OF OHIO.

Fellow Citizens—An important trust has been committed to you, as citizens of a free country; but that trust, in regard to the interests of education, was never so important as now. Formerly but little was required of you, because the country was too new to admit of much action on the subject; but now much is required to be done, if you would preserve equal rights to all! The voices of all men of all parties unite, from east to west, from the lake to the Ohio river, in favor of general education! To avoid the evil of partial legislation, a superintendent has been appointed; but he cannot answer the expectation of the public unless the

people respond to the call now made, and, through the proper officers cause full reports to be made within the proper time. Fellow citizens, much has already been done, but it is admitted, on all hands, that much yet remains to be done. The legislature, with an earnest disposition to go forward with the good work, stand and call upon you for information, as to what is now doing, what remains to be done, & how they may best accomplish the object so generally favored.

Large sums of money are derived from lands and taxes; and other large appropriations have recently been made for common schools, to an extent that must secure us, as a state, the admiration of the intelligent and the patriotic every where.

Your superintendent has entered upon the duties of his office with fear and hope. He can only be of service by collecting and laying before your legislature your several thousand voices; he claims only an earnest wish to promote the great cause of education, the common schools, "THE PEOPLE'S COLLEGES." He is, to a great extent, powerless, except as your organ. Some action, decisive action, will probably ensue from the legislature of next winter. It depends on the people what shall be the character of that action. Three or four active men in a county, with a little aid from the school officers and county auditor, may furnish the superintendent with such information as shall secure the interest and improvement of all the schools within their bounds. The superintendent will spare neither time nor labor, in order to accomplish his task, and he emphatically asks once more, fellow citizens, will you aid and sustain him?

SAMUEL LEWIS,

Super. of Common Schools for Ohio.

The different editors of newspapers of all parties, as well political as religious, are requested to give this address an insertion, and add such editorial remarks as will be likely to call proper attention to the duties enjoined. What we have proposed is but following the same course that is now pursued by New York, Pennsylvania, and other states, that are awake to the improvement and extension of common school education.

S. L.

From the Jeffersonian.

## REFLECTIONS.

OUR COUNTRY.—FEDERALISM AND DEMOCRACY.—From our earliest infancy, we Americans, have been accustomed to boast with a just and an honest pride, that, while in all other nations on the earth, men were borne down by the iron hand of oppression, ours was a country, where freedom, equal rights, and happiness as perfect as is possible for men to enjoy, existed to their fullest extent.—That this country commenced its career, with principles like these, we admit.—Our early ancestors, who founded this nation, were certainly a people, amongst whom, peculiar freedom reigned. They were plain, simple, and moral, in their habits, manners, and modes of living; open and familiar in their intercourse; undistinguished by class or rank, there was no circle, in which there were any too low, or too poor to mingle, with perfect equality. There was no purse-proud aristocrat, who lived in idleness, upon the earnings of the laborious poor, and no laborious poor who depended for their daily subsistence upon the crumbs which fell from the purse-proud aristocrat's table. Monopoly was a name unknown amongst them. Property was nearly equally distributed, and almost every man, by his own labor, on his own premises, procured for his own family, the food and clothing necessary for their support and comfort. But what is the condition of our country now? Do the primal simplicity and equality of our ancestors continue to exist? Can we now, with justice, boast, that the condition and happiness of the people of our country, are so vastly in advance of those of the nations of Europe? We fear not. The day of equal rights and privileges, even among Americans, has past. Already we witness in each, but more particularly the Eastern portion of these United States, though, as compared with the nations of the old world, yet in her infancy, the existence of huge and oppressive monopolies—proud and privileged chartered companies—a moneyed and insolent aristocracy, whose dwellings are splendid mansions—magnificent palaces, more costly than those of European monarchs—who roll through the streets in gilded carriages—who lead lives of luxurious ease, extravagance and profligacy, beyond the nobles of France or England. We see also a vast multitude of poor; honest, laborious poor, whose daily labor procures, and only procures, the daily bread for themselves and families. The great body of the laboring classes in the eastern section of the Union are reduced to a state of semi-vassalage—of servitude, to those moneyed monopolists. Scarce a week passes, during which the papers from that quarter, do not bring us intelligence of the renewed, continued, and increased oppressive measures and exactions of these grasping millionaires, upon the working men, the profits of whose hard earnings, are consumed, to support their oppressors in affluent ease. These evils are not experienced here, as yet, to the same extent; but it is only because we are younger. Things are tending the same way; and the result, unless averted, will eventually be the same. The patriot, the philanthropist, the republican,

the democrat, he who cherishes the principles of equal rights and liberty, for which our fathers fought, will naturally enquire, for the cause of this wide and unfortunate change in the condition of the people of these United States; what it is, that has thus commenced, and is continuing to elevate one small portion of the community, upon the necks of all the rest, and how, if at all, such a calamity may be averted. To enable us to get a clearer view of this point, let us advert, for a moment to other nations, where this species of oppression exists, in its most odious form, and learn what has produced it in them.

The modern nations of Europe, most of them, have arisen, within the last fourteen hundred years, on the ruins of the old Roman Empire. These different nations of modern Europe conquered and settled different portions of that Roman Empire; which when reduced to possession were distributed among the conquerors in the following manner. The whole tract, which was conquered, and made the residence of any nation, was laid off in large sections or divisions, which may be compared to the counties of our State. These divisions were then given, by the leader of the nation, one by one, to the officers, the nobles, to the 'wealthy and well born,' among which class all the land was distributed. Here was established a wealthy aristocracy. This aristocracy—the owners of all the property in the nation—then rented out, each his different allotment, to such of the great mass of the people, who had no property, as they pleased, and on such conditions, that is, by compelling them to pay as much as they pleased, for the privilege. This land, also, which was thus given, in the outset, to the nobles, descended to their children; and generally, by what is called the law of primogeniture, to the eldest son. This system, while the nation was not very populous—while the quantity of land was great, in proportion to the number of inhabitants to be supported from its produce, might not have been very oppressive. Each lord, as these aristocrats were often called, would only want a sufficiency from his grain to support himself in affluence, and the remainder of its produce, would be divided among, not a very large number, of tenants or laboring men. But as the children, grandchildren, and yet more distant relatives of these wealthy lords increased, and also their own extravagance in living, they necessarily required a larger, and yet a still larger share of the income, of the produce of their domain, to supply their wants and extravagancies; while on the other hand, the poor tenants—the laboring men—were also increasing in as much greater proportion than the nobles, as they exceeded them in numbers. The children of the poor man were born poor, and thus were dependent on their daily labor, on the rich man's land, as the rich man owned it all, for their daily subsistence. We can now see clearly what would be the operation of this system.—The insolent and moneyed lord, would be continually exacting more and more; and he being the owner could exact what he pleased, of the produce raised by the poor man's labor, to satisfy the increasing splendor and profligacy of his own and his kindred's lives; the laboring men among whom the little remnant might remain to be divided, would be increasing and increasing, and still increasing, and as they increased, their pittance for living would become smaller and smaller; till, at length, who can tell the misery and wretchedness that must overwhelm them? Such a system, as we said before, was established in the early history of the present kingdoms of Europe. Such a system is continued with more or less rigor to the present day. To overthrow such a system, has been the object of most of the revolutions which have convulsed, at different periods of their history, many of these European kingdoms. From the operation of this system, arise that poverty, that wretchedness, that oppression, which now grind to the dust the laboring classes of community, in these European kingdoms. It is the system, by which all the property is engrossed in the hands of a moneyed aristocracy of monopolizing companies; at whose mercy, of course, the great body of the people are.

This system is called 'the Feudal System.'—Is there any thing in progress in our country, in these United States, analogous to this system? I need not stop to argue this point. Every man knows, that for the last few years a moneyed aristocracy, have been engrossing, with tremendous rapidity, every species of property, in this country. Every branch of trade, of business, in the eastern and older portion of our country, is controlled by some monopolizing company. The unsettled public lands are almost all bought up by these moneyed aristocrats. They control all the Banks, and use all the money from the Banks for these speculative purposes. They control by influence and bribery our legislators; and thus laws are passed to suit their purposes.—The moneyed nobility of Europe have come in, and united with them in their grand scheme of monopolizing the wealth and business of this country. Already have they become so powerful as to set at defiance the measures of the general government, which are put in operation to protect the people from their aggressions. Already, from the profits which they have inhumanly extorted from the sweat of the laboring man's brow; perhaps from the very means of existence of his family, begin to rise their splendid and royal palaces: Already the groans of

the oppressed laborer, come loud and deep and incessant to our ears. Already that system, with which the kingdoms of Europe set out, and which produces in them such misery and wretchedness, is becoming widely extended and fast fixed, upon this our boasted land of equal privileges. Already it is producing the same unhappy effects. We do not yet feel its consequences to so great an extent as they do at the East; but the day is not distant when we shall. The farmer now feels secure and independent on his farm and the mechanic in his business. But we ask that farmer and that mechanic whether, when one of their children shall come to occupy the place which they now hold, and the rest shall be obliged to commence anew in the world for themselves, they can procure farms, at second hand, from one of these independent and insolent millionaires, these speculators, on as good terms as they could at first purchase; or whether they can start in business against a wealthy and monopolizing company, as advantageously as though they had only single individuals, in similar circumstances to themselves, to compete with?

From the Chillicothe Advertiser.

## MR. WHITEHILL—THE TREASURER OF OUR STATE.

This gentleman is as good a whig, and is as fully charged with the purest black poison of his party, as any other man in all this region. As an officer, he has thus far enjoyed that sort of indemnity for his acts, which oblivion confers, and which the easy lenity of the Democratic party is too apt to allow, to its delinquent enemies. His recent conduct has, however, begun to introduce him, more generally to the notice of the people—and if, within the coming year, he should find himself painfully conspicuous, he will have none but himself to reproach, with the new and unenviable eminence to which detection has raised him above the obscurity of his former condition.

When we have stated the facts, we, in justice, admonish our readers not to start into angry rage against Mr. Whitehill. He is an American citizen, and an officer of state—and as such, he is entitled to the benefit of a full investigation of his official conduct, on an impartial meeting by that legislature which the constitution has appointed to guard the rights and avenge the wrongs of an injured people.

By an act of the recent Congress, the surplus money, then in the coffers of the Federal government, was to be distributed among the States of the Union, in ascertained proportions. The amount which fell to the State of Ohio, was 2,679,044 DOLLARS. This sum was to be paid within the current year in four quarterly annual instalments. The immense sum of paper money by the banks, and the certainty of its consequent deterioration, had induced the General Government to promulgate an order, requiring the payment for public lands, to be made in gold and silver only.—This was done. There was therefore, deposited in the banks of Ohio hard money, and nothing but hard money to pay for part of the Federal distribution. Let this be remarked. At the last session, the Legislature passed an act authorizing the Treasurer of State to receive this money, and pay it to the several counties in their due proportions. Whitehill has accordingly proceeded to draw out of the banks the first and second instalments, amounting together to one million three hundred and thirty nine thousand five hundred and twenty two dollars, and has placed that amount in the Treasury of State to be paid to the counties. But what did he draw? The Federal Government had put gold and silver in the banks, to be paid by them to the state. The Treasury had a right to demand, and the banks were bound to pay this gold and silver for the use of the counties and the people. What then did Mr. Whitehill draw—gold and silver? No!—He did not draw from the banks one single dollar in gold or silver; but thought proper to sweep out of their vaults and silver for the use of the banks, and to take that silver in exchange. And to complete the ascendancy of the banks over him, so pliable was he to their coaxings, and so utterly regardless of the public interest, that he took not only the notes of the deposit banks, which retained the gold and silver; but also, all other notes they were pleased to give him. What has been the consequence? Why this—that these very banks, with this same gold and silver locked up in their vaults, have all refused to pay out one dollar of it for those notes of theirs, thereby depreciating the value of the notes at least ten per cent. So that the people of Ohio have been compelled to sustain a loss of a fraction more than FORTY HUNDRED AND THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS—UPON the \$1,339,522 already received by the Treasurer in Bank notes; and the banks which still hold the gold and silver, have made that amount clear money, off the people, by this arrangement with Mr. Whitehill. The counties of the state have to lose the amount or refuse to take any thing at all.

The Loan commissioners of Ross county we are informed, went to Columbus last week, to get the two instalments due our county, amounting to twenty-six thousand two hundred and thirteen dollars and twenty-one cents. On enquiry, they found that the only money in the Treasury, was the paper of these very banks that have stopped paying specie for their notes. They did not receive it. And hence it is that Ross county has not got the first dollar—while the bank of Chillicothe holds in its vaults hundreds of thousands of gold and silver, which was placed there to pay this and the other counties of the State. Thus, it is that, by the joint agency of this Whig Treasurer and the Whig banks, the people of the State are obliged to sustain a loss of more than one hundred and thirty thousand dollars.

From the Akron Journal.

What has become of the hero of Tippecanoe? A few short months gone by, he was the distinguished Chieftain, the profound civilian, around whom was rallied a powerful and confident political party. Where now is his body guard? Echo answers where? A few months since the lost liberties of the American people were to be regained: a broken and violated Constitution, restored to its original reading; a mass of corruption that had been accumulating for eight years in the high places of Government, was to be swept away; and by whom? The hero of North Bend! the Cincinnati of the West!! The people would it otherwise, but the Statesman, the hero lives, his laurels green and fresh as ever, yet where is the man who does him reverence?—

Who among his admirers quote his opinions, or drags in his sayings to fortify a doctrine of his party? Not one. Why this desertion, why such a sudden abandonment of a cherished and much honored champion?

The truth is, the supporters of Harrison were the victims of delusion of their own creating. The great mass of them, the rank and file of his party believed him to be, what he was cracked up to be. The leaders knew better. Now that they have no object in keeping up the delusion, the veil has been suffered to be removed, and he is seen just as he is, just such a man as you meet daily among the hard-fisted farmers of the Reserve,—nothing more.

What a face this whole farce gives to the character and tactics of the party in the minority? The great error of the Whigs lay in their reliance upon the force of popular delusion, the gullibility of the American people. They failed as they always must when they repose their hopes in the ignorance, stupidity or servility of the Democracy of the nation.

THE ANNIVERSARY.—Preparations are making in different places to celebrate in a becoming manner, the approaching Anniversary of our National Independence.

There is not much in the present posture of our Domestic affairs for rejoicing and congratulation, but what's the wisdom of taking things grievously to heart. Grief will pay no debts, buy no bread. Let us have a day of general jellification, and of retrospection too. It will do us good to glance backward and compare our position and course with seventy-six. Give us the cannon roar, the spirit stirring drum, the martial file, the pomp and circumstance of glorious war. Give us one day in the calendar of general brotherhood, of oblivion to political asperities, and family quarrels. Let the hatchet be buried deep and the calumny pass freely. What is, must be. We expect to see the Lion and the Lamb lie down together. What so fitting occasion to take the cup of kindness and friendship to reanimate our patriotism, drink again at its pure fountain, and renew the oath we have taken at its altar.

Give us bonfires and illuminations.—Give us cannon and crackers. Let us see the veteran shoulder his crutch and fight his battles o'er. Oh! for the inspiration of the tremendous, deafening huzzas! huzzas! huzzas! Let the welkin ring with cheers three times three, amid sentiment and song, in the feast of reason and flow of soul. Let the inspiring hawl pass freely from hand to hand, and mouth to mouth, though it sparkle with cold water, or smoke with hot coffee no matter, and wel to him who throws the apple of discord into the camp. We want no more on that occasion. No Whigism, no Van Burenism, ay! no Abolitionism, no how—Remember that! We want a Jubilee in these times, the entire thing. It would be the commencement of a new era.—Will the young men of Akron give us such an one? It's a glorious cause, this commemorating the heroic achievements of our Fathers. Whilst writing this we have not one drop of partisan blood in us. So much of thinking for a moment on that glorious liberty, our Father, and your Father reader, God bless them, fought and spilt their best blood to secure for us. Even now we could swing our beaver in ecstasy, and shout in the fullness of soul huzzas! huzzas! to the memory of old '76.—Akron Jour.

FIRE!—Rochester has so rarely suffered from fire, that the occurrence of a brisk blaze excites something of a "sensation." The conflagration on Sunday morning threatened to prove far more disastrous than it has done. As it is, the losses are not very great, and are probably well covered by insurance.

The fire originated in and destroyed the brick store corner of Buffalo and Market streets, occupied as a Tin and Sheet Iron factory and Store by M. Parsons & Co. The Leather Store (not the Tannery) of J. & D. Graves, and the Gunsmith's Shop of Messrs. Miller, both old wooden buildings on Market street, were also destroyed; and from these the fire communicated to the rear of the wholesale and retail Grocery and Ship Chandlery of George A. Avery & Co, which was considerably injured—and from this building the fire threatened to awhile to communicate with the rear of the Arcade and Post Office. To prevent this catastrophe, some wooden stables and sheds were torn down; although the vigilance of the Firemen rendered that measure unnecessary by checking the fire while in Avery's Store. The Hardware Store of Barton, Banker & Avery, on Buffalo street, next west of the Store of Parsons & Co., where the fire originated, was entirely destroyed, and the Auction and Dry Goods Store of L. W. Sibley & Co. and the Grocery Store of Farley & Hamilton were considerably injured—although those stores did not suffer as much as Avery & Co.'s farther west on Buffalo street—the latter building, which extends far back, having caught in the rear from the buildings burnt in Market street. The losses cannot be accurately estimated, but are probably mostly covered by insurance. The goods were chiefly saved.—Rock. Adv.

On the 22d inst. the men employed at the harbor of Chicago raised one of the brass six pounders which was thrown into the river, on the 15th of August, 1812, when the post was abandoned to the Indians. It was in good preservation, except the block-wheels and carriage, which were considerably decayed.

# WESTERN COURIER.

RAVENNA, JUNE 22, 1837.

## COMMON SCHOOLS.

We publish this week the address of Mr S. Lewis, appointed superintendent of Schools by the Legislature. We sincerely hope this subject will be attended to by all interested in it, and ALL are interested. The only chance for success in this undertaking depends upon the PEOPLE themselves. If they get about the matter with energy and vigor, no danger need be apprehended—all will be well. The intelligence, happiness, and liberty of America, depends entirely upon the efficiency of COMMON SCHOOLS. Seminaries and Colleges may do much towards enlightening the people, but the germ of knowledge must generate in Common Schools, and it is through them that the great mass of the people are to derive intelligence.

Citizens of Ohio! we wish to see you awake on this all important subject. Do you wish to have the rising and future generations of your native land, free, noble and brave? Put forth all your energies to obtain a liberal system of education.

## RAGS! RAGS!!

The Hydra has raised another of its many heads. The Franklin Silk (paper) Company has commenced issuing rags, in the shape of drafts on the Treasurer, drawn by the President and countersigned by the Agent. While the country is groaning under the evils of overbanking and over issue of bank paper, the Federal Bankites redouble their exertions to increase the number of banks, and take advantage of every opportunity to shove upon the people their worthless representative of money. Let a rail road company be chartered—they forthwith get a plate engraved and commence issuing bills. If a Towing company is incorporated—immediately their notes are in circulation. No matter what the ostensible object of the company is, when a charter is granted the first object is to issue paper money. It never was the intention of any one to organize a Silk Company at Franklin. That never was in contemplation. The only object which any one had in view was to get a charter for something, no matter what, and then commence banking. It was well known that a majority of the Legislature was opposed to banks, and while Akron, Cuyahoga Falls and Ravenna were openly asking for a bank charter, Franklin, only asked for a charter for a Silk Company, which, of course, was granted without any objections, and now, Franklin has a Rag mill in operation.

## OPPOSITION TO THE LAWS.

But a few years ago, when Anti-Masonry was the political hobby-horse of broken down politicians, the Ohio Star had for its motto, "Supremacy of the Constitution and Laws." In the last number of that consistent hebdomadal, its Editor exults exceedingly at the flagrant violations of the laws, by the New York panicites, in establishing a private mail from that city to Boston, and boldly bids defiance to the laws under which he lives.

He says:

The situation of the government is depicted in three lines of Aitken's oration over the body of Cass.

"But yesterday the word of Cass might have stood against the world: now lies he there."

And none so poor to do him reverence? Not quite so fast, sir, if you please; you will yet find many, very many citizens of the United States who have not lost all respect for the Government and laws established by our patriot forefathers—you will find many good men and true, who have not sold themselves to the money kings and Rag Barons, and who are ready to defend with their lives, the free institutions and free government, won in blood and bequeathed to them by their forefathers.

## "SPOILS."

By the official Statements of the receipts and expenditures of Portage County, it appears that the Salary of the Auditor for the last year was \$1005.69 9. Quite comfortable that, eh? A nice little crumb these hard times.

The receipts of this county for the last financial year was \$32,116.67, the expenditures the same.

JOHN C. SINGLETARY, Jr Esq. was elected Mayor of Akron, at the recent election for charter officers.